

# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

PCT/GB2004/004115

## A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC 7 E03F1/00

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

## B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 7 E03F E01C E01H

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal

## C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	DE 298 23 806 U (HAURATON GMBH & CO KG) 23 December 1999 (1999-12-23) page 9, line 6 - line 28; figures 4,5	1,2,9
A	WO 96/12067 A (UNIV COVENTRY ; PRATT CHRISTOPHER JOHN (GB)) 25 April 1996 (1996-04-25) cited in the application abstract; figure 1	1,8
A	US 4 971 690 A (JUSTICE DONALD R) 20 November 1990 (1990-11-20) abstract; figures 1,2	1,6,7
A	US 4 039 451 A (SMITH ALVIN JACK) 2 August 1977 (1977-08-02) cited in the application column 2, line 3 - column 3, line 35; figures	1-3,6

☐ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

### \* Special categories of cited documents :

- \*A\* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- \*E\* earlier document but published on or after the international filing date
- \*L\* document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- \*O\* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- \*P\* document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

- \*T\* later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
- \*X\* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
- \*Y\* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.
- \*8\* document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

26 November 2004

Date of mailing of the international search report

02/12/2004

Name and mailing address of the ISA

European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2  
NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk  
Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl,  
Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

Authorized officer

De Coene, P

## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

PCT/GB2004/004115

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
DE 29823806	U	23-12-1999	DE 19824456 A1	09-12-1999
			DE 29823806 U1	23-12-1999
WO 9612067	A	25-04-1996	AT 171232 T	15-10-1998
			AU 3616995 A	06-05-1996
			CA 2200719 A1	25-04-1996
			DE 69504859 D1	22-10-1998
			DE 69504859 T2	02-06-1999
			EP 0786034 A1	30-07-1997
			ES 2124591 T3	01-02-1999
			WO 9612067 A1	25-04-1996
			GB 2294077 A ,B	17-04-1996
			JP 3452933 B2	06-10-2003
			JP 10511154 T	27-10-1998
			US 6146051 A	14-11-2000
US 4971690	A	20-11-1990	NONE	
US 4039451	A	02-08-1977	NONE	